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General Assembly

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A/RES/47/187
25 February 1993

Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 78 (a)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/47/718/Add.2 and Corr.1)]

47/187. Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions S-18/3 of 1 May 1990, the annex to which contains the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and 45/199 of 21 December 1990, the annex to which contains the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, and recalling the Cartagena Commitment, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its eighth session, 1/ and Agenda 21, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 2/

Aware of the fundamental changes taking place in the countries that are transforming their economies from centrally planned to market-oriented ones, and of the problems they are facing in this regard,

Taking note of the World Economic Survey 1992, 3/

1. Recognizes that the full integration of the economies in transition into the world economy should have a positive impact on world trade, economic growth and development, including that of the developing countries;

1/ TD/364, part one, sect. A.

2/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26), chap I, resolution 1, annex II.

3/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.92.II.C.1, and corrigenda.

2. Also recognizes the need for the international community to support the successful process of bringing about economic reforms and restructuring in the economies in transition, with due regard to the developing countries among them, without adversely affecting development assistance to other developing countries;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to coordinate and strengthen the ability of the United Nations system to conduct analytical and policy advice activities regarding changes that take place in the economies in transition as they integrate into the world economy;

4. Requests the Secretary-General therefore to prepare, within existing resources, with the full cooperation of the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, a report on the role of the United Nations system in addressing problems facing the economies in transition, including the difficulties that the economies in transition are encountering in their integration into the world economy, and to submit the report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session;

5. Decides to include in the agenda of its forty-eighth session a sub-item entitled "Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy" under the item entitled "Development and international economic cooperation".

93rd plenary meeting
22 December 1992

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12 March 1993

Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 79

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/47/719)]

47/188. Establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating committee for the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/172 A of 19 December 1989, 44/228 of 22 December 1989 and other relevant General Assembly resolutions, as well as decisions adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in particular the recommendation by which the Conference invited the General Assembly to establish at its forty-seventh session, under its auspices, an intergovernmental negotiating committee for the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, with a view to finalizing such a convention by June 1994, 1/

1. Welcomes with satisfaction the results and the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, particularly chapter 12 of Agenda 21 entitled "Managing fragile ecosystems: combating desertification and drought"; 2/

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II, para. 12.40.

2/ Ibid., annex II.

2. Decides to establish, under its auspices, an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, taking into account proposals that may be submitted by States participating in the negotiating process, with a view to finalizing such a convention by June 1994, and welcomes the candidature of Ambassador Bo Kjellen (Sweden) for the chairmanship of the Committee;

3. Also decides that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee shall be open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies, with the participation of observers in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly;

4. Further decides that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee shall hold, in addition to an organizational session, five substantive sessions, each lasting for two weeks, at Geneva and Nairobi, in New York and, in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985, in Paris; the dates of these sessions will be determined by the Committee at its organizational session, subject to review of the timetable at the end of each negotiating session and taking into account the schedule of other related meetings;

5. Decides that at the first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, to be held at Nairobi, the first week shall be devoted to the sharing of technical information and assessments, with the involvement of experts, on drought and desertification;

6. Decides that provision shall be made for an organizational session of up to one week's duration, to be held in New York not later than February 1993, in order to organize the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and to elect its officers, which shall consist of a chairman, three vice-chairmen and a rapporteur, each of the five regional groups being represented by one officer;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to establish at Geneva as soon as possible an ad hoc secretariat of appropriate size and calibre, drawing, inter alia, on staff resources of the United Nations system, in order to ensure that the ad hoc secretariat embodies the requisite technical expertise to assist the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in the fulfilment of its mandate;

8. Invites the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Health Organization, the World Meteorological Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other relevant international organizations dealing with desertification, drought and development, to make appropriate contributions to the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in the fulfilment of its mandate;

9. Decides that the Secretary-General shall appoint as head of the ad hoc secretariat a senior official at an appropriate level who shall act under the guidance of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee;

10. Requests the Secretary-General, through the head of the ad hoc secretariat, to prepare draft rules of procedure to be considered by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at its organizational session;

11. Requests the head of the ad hoc secretariat to make available to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, at the first substantive session, the most relevant and recent information available, in conformity with its mandate as stated in paragraph 2 above;

12. Decides to establish a multidisciplinary panel of experts to assist the ad hoc secretariat and, under its authority, to provide the necessary expertise in the scientific, technical, legal and other related fields, making full use of the resources and expertise within and available to Governments and/or organizations of the United Nations system dealing with drought and desertification;

13. Also decides that the negotiation process shall be funded through existing United Nations budgetary resources, without negatively affecting its programmed activities, and through voluntary contributions to a trust fund established specifically for that purpose for the duration of the negotiations and administered by the head of the ad hoc secretariat, under the authority of the Secretary-General;

14. Urges Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations, including non-governmental organizations, to contribute generously to the trust fund;

15. Decides to establish a special voluntary fund, to be administered by the head of the ad hoc secretariat, under the authority of the Secretary-General, to assist developing countries affected by desertification and drought, in particular the least developed countries, to participate fully and effectively in the negotiation process, and invites Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations, including non-governmental organizations, to contribute generously to the fund;

16. Invites relevant or interested organizations, organs, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental, subregional and regional organizations to participate actively in the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee;

17. Urges States to organize, in close collaboration with the regional commissions and national, subregional and regional organizations, activities to support the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee process, with the involvement of the scientific and industrial communities, trade unions, the relevant non-governmental organizations and other interested groups;

18. Invites the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office to assist the countries covered under its mandate in their preparations for and participation in the negotiating process and to mobilize resources for this purpose;

19. Invites all relevant non-governmental organizations and, especially, encourages non-governmental organizations from developing countries to contribute constructively to the success of the negotiating process in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Intergovernmental

Negotiating Committee and taking into account procedures followed in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development process;

20. Requests the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to submit progress reports to the Commission on Sustainable Development and other appropriate bodies;

21. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and relevant scientific institutions;

22. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

23. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-eighth session a sub-item entitled "Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa" under an item entitled "Implementation of decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development".

93rd plenary meeting
22 December 1992

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

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A/RES/47/189
10 March 1993

Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 79

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/47/719)]

47/189. Convening of a global conference on the sustainable development of small island developing States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989, in which it decided to convene the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to, inter alia, elaborate strategies and measures aimed at promoting sustainable and environmentally sound development in all countries,

Recalling also its resolution 45/202 of 21 December 1990, in which it called upon island developing countries to continue to adopt suitable development policies designed to overcome their specific vulnerabilities and to adopt measures aimed at protecting and rehabilitating their fragile ecosystems, and at the same time appealed to the international community to extend cooperation in this regard,

Taking note of Agenda 21, 1/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in particular chapter 17, section G thereof, on the sustainable development of small island developing States,

Taking into account relevant work in this area carried out by other organs, programmes and organizations of the United Nations system,

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1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

Recognizing that small island developing States and islands supporting small communities are a special case with regard to both environment and development, that they are ecologically fragile and vulnerable, that their small size, limited resources, geographic dispersion and isolation from markets place them at a disadvantage economically and limit economies of scale, and that for small island developing States the ocean and coastal environment is of strategic importance and constitutes a valuable development resource,

Also recognizing that the geographic isolation of small island developing States has resulted in their habitation by comparatively large numbers of unique species of flora and fauna, giving them a very large share of global biodiversity,

Aware that small island developing States have rich and diverse cultures with special adaptations to island environments and knowledge of sound management of island resources,

Aware also that small island developing States have all the environmental problems and challenges of the coastal zone concentrated in a limited land area,

Noting that small island developing States are considered extremely vulnerable to the impact of potential climate change and sea-level rise, with certain small low-lying island developing States facing the increasing threat of the loss of their entire national territories,

Gravely concerned that most tropical islands are currently experiencing the more immediate impacts of an increasing frequency of cyclones, storms and hurricanes associated with climate change, which are causing major set-backs to their socio-economic development,

Stressing that, because the development options of small island developing States are limited, there are special challenges to planning for and implementing sustainable development, and that small island developing States will be constrained in meeting those challenges without the cooperation and assistance of the international community,

Affirming the relevance of the environmental issues identified in paragraph 12, section I, of its resolution 44/228 to the sustainable development of small island developing States,

Reaffirming the recommendation in Agenda 21 that small island developing States, with the support, as appropriate, of international organizations, whether subregional, regional or global, should develop and strengthen inter-island, regional and interregional cooperation and information exchange, including periodic regional and global meetings on the sustainable development of such States, 2/

2/ Ibid., chap. 17, para. 17.130.

1. Decides to convene in April 1994 the first Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which shall be of two weeks' duration and shall have the highest possible level of participation;

2. Accepts with deep appreciation the generous offer of the Government of Barbados to host the Conference;

3. Affirms that the Conference should elaborate strategies and measures to enhance the sustainable development of small island developing States in the context of increased national and international efforts to promote sustainable and environmentally sound development worldwide;

4. Decides that the Conference shall have the following objectives:

(a) To adopt plans and programmes to support the sustainable development of small island developing States and the utilization of their marine and coastal resources, which includes meeting essential human needs, maintaining biodiversity and improving the quality of life for island people;

(b) To adopt measures that will enable small island developing States to cope effectively and creatively and in a sustainable manner with environmental changes and to mitigate the impacts on and reduce the threats posed to marine and coastal resources;

5. Also decides that the Conference, in pursuit of those objectives, shall examine strategies for national and international action with a view to arriving at specific agreements and commitments by Governments and by intergovernmental organizations for defined activities to promote sustained and environmentally sound development of small island developing States; the Conference shall, inter alia:

(a) Review current trends in the socio-economic development of small island developing States and the prospects, constraints and further options for their sustainable development, taking into consideration the relevant programmes and recommendations in chapter 17, section G, of Agenda 21; 1/

(b) Examine the nature and magnitude of the specific vulnerabilities of small island developing States with a view to defining and/or formulating specific indicators of vulnerability in a way that has operational applicability;

(c) Define a number of specific actions and policies relating to environmental and development planning to be undertaken by small island developing States, with the assistance of the international community, to facilitate the sustainable development of such States;

(d) Identify the elements that small island developing States need to include in their medium- and long-term sustainable development plans, including their response strategies, taking into account the importance of integrating environmental, social and economic factors in the maintenance of cultural and biological diversity and the conservation of endangered species and critical habitats on both land and sea;

(e) Recommend measures for enhancing the endogenous capacity of small island developing States, in particular the development of human resources and the promotion of access to environmentally sound technology for sustainable development within such States;

(f) Review whether institutional arrangements at the international level enable small island developing States to give effect to the relevant provisions of Agenda 21, and make recommendations as needed in this regard;

6. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to prepare a report for the substantive session of the Preparatory Committee established in paragraph 8 of the present resolution, containing a review of existing global and regional programmes of action with regard to their applicability to and their combined effect on the sustainable development of small island developing States, with specific recommendations on any changes to those programmes of action which may be needed to establish greater consistency with the principles of Agenda 21 with respect to the sustainable development of small island developing States;

7. Also requests the Secretary-General to invite to the Conference those listed in paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 46/168 of 19 December 1991, as well as representatives of relevant regional and subregional organizations;

8. Decides to establish the Preparatory Committee for the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which shall be open to all the participants referred to in paragraph 7 of the present resolution, in accordance with the established practice of the Assembly;

9. Welcomes the candidature of Ambassador Penny Wensley (Australia) for the chairmanship of the Preparatory Committee;

10. Decides that the Preparatory Committee shall hold a two-day organizational session at United Nations Headquarters, not later than April 1993, for the following purposes:

(a) The election of its chairman and the other officers, namely, four vice-chairmen, including a rapporteur, giving due regard to equitable geographical representation;

(b) The organization of its work;

11. Also decides that the Preparatory Committee shall hold a substantive session of two weeks' duration in August 1993 at United Nations Headquarters, at which time it shall:

(a) Draft the provisional agenda for the Conference, in accordance with the provisions of the present resolution, on the basis of recommendations to be submitted by the Secretary-General;

(b) Receive and consider the substantive contributions referred to in paragraphs 6, 16 and 17 of the present resolution;

(c) Prepare draft decisions to be submitted to the Conference for consideration and adoption;

12. Further decides that the host country of the Conference shall be ex officio an officer of the Preparatory Committee;

13. Requests the Secretary-General, within the context of the administrative arrangements to be put in place to coordinate the implementation of Agenda 21 and the servicing of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and in close cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, to establish a focal point with a senior official, at an appropriate level and with the necessary specialized expertise, to service fully the preparations for and holding of the Conference and to ensure such follow-up action as may result therefrom;

14. Also requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report, to be submitted to the Preparatory Committee at its organizational session, containing recommendations on an adequate preparatory process, taking into account the provisions of the present resolution and the views expressed by Governments during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

15. Further requests the Secretary-General to prepare draft rules of procedure for the consideration of the Preparatory Committee at its organizational session, and, in this context, to include proposals for the participation of representatives of associate members of the regional commissions, outside the negotiating process, and, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, to allow them to contribute to the Conference and its preparatory process;

16. Stresses the importance of holding regional technical meetings on the sustainable development of small island developing States as a means of preparing substantive contributions to the Conference, and invites relevant regional and subregional bodies, in close cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other agencies, organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, to organize such meetings as soon as practicable, preferably in the first half of 1993;

17. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure the coordination of contributions from the United Nations system through the Administrative Committee on Coordination;

18. Invites relevant non-governmental organizations from developed and developing countries, in particular those from small island developing States, including those related to major groups, to contribute to the Conference, within the areas of their competence and expertise, on the basis of the procedures for their accreditation followed for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as recommended in paragraph 38.44 of Agenda 21; 1/

19. Decides that, subject to the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 40/243 of 18 December 1985, 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987, the funds necessary for the preparatory process and the Conference itself should be made available within the programme budget without adversely affecting other ongoing activities and without prejudice to the provision of extrabudgetary resources;

20. Also decides to establish a voluntary fund for the purpose of assisting small island developing States and the least developed countries to participate fully and effectively in the Conference and its preparatory process, and invites Governments to contribute to the fund;

21. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of the relevant specialized agencies and other relevant organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system;

22. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-eighth session a sub-item entitled "Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" under an agenda item entitled "Implementation of decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development".

93rd plenary meeting
22 December 1992